

CHAPTER TWO

POPULATION ELEMENT

The population element of the comprehensive plan is the most logical starting point in planning for the future of a community. The population element provides the City of Hartwell with an inventory and assessment of trends in population growth or decline and in the demographic characteristics of the population. The population element forms a foundation for the economic development, community facilities, housing and land use elements of the plan.

2.1. Population Trends in Influencing Regions.

Hartwell's population should be, and is, considered within the context of population trends in the regions which may influence growth in Hartwell and Hart County. Table 2-1 provides population figures for 1980 through 2000 and percent growth rates for the past decade, for regions which may have an influence on population growth in the city and county.

Hartwell and Hart County are located in close proximity to the Greenville-Spartenburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Anderson County is adjacent to Hart County (across Lake Hartwell) is within this MSA. It is approximately 25 miles from Hartwell to Anderson, South Carolina

The city and county may also be influenced by the growth of the Athens, Georgia MSA, which as of 2000 included Athens-Clarke County, Jackson County, Madison County and Oconee County. Hartwell is approximately 40 miles from downtown Athens. As Table 2-1 indicates, the Athens MSA increased by more than 7,000 persons and had a growth rate of 4.9 percent over the last decade.

Hartwell and Hart County are located within the Georgia Mountains RDC region, which encompasses thirteen counties: Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White. The Georgia Mountains region increased by more than 150,000 persons and had a growth rate of almost fifty percent during the 1990s. Most of this growth, however, occurred in suburban Forsyth and Hall Counties, which are heavily influenced by the population growth of metropolitan Atlanta. Counties in the more outlying portions of the region have witnessed varying growth rates between 1990 and 2000 depending on the location in the region.

**TABLE 2-1
REGIONAL POPULATION TRENDS
1980 - 2000**

AREA	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 % CHANGE
Anderson, SC MSA	133,235	145,196	+	---
Athens, GA MSA	130,015	146,267	153,444	4.9
Georgia Mountains RDC	244,010	304,462	455,342	49.6
Northeast Georgia RDC	233,230	277,962	438,300 *	---

NOTES: MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area; RDC is Regional Development Center
+Anderson became part of the Greenville – Spartanburg MSA in 2000.
* Northeast Georgia RDC added three counties to its region.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

The Northeast Georgia RDC region encompasses thirteen counties including adjacent Elbert and Madison Counties. This region gained more than 160,000 persons over the past decade, by adding three counties to its region and through growth particularly seen in its member counties that border metropolitan Atlanta.

2.2. Population Trends, Hartwell and Adjacent Areas.

Table 2-2 provides historic population figures for Hartwell and Hart County, as well as the Town of Bowersville. Between 1930 and 1970, Hart County's population remained relatively constant, at around 15,500 persons. The growth rate in Hart County was quite significant from 1970 to 1980, at 17.5 percent. Population growth slowed in the 1980s to 6 percent, as indicated in Table 2-3, and then picked back up from 1990 to 2000 growing by 16.7 percent to 22,997. Hartwell's population grew relatively slowly but steadily from 1930 to 1950, then had a remarkable growth rate from 1950 to 1960 (55.2%). Hartwell's population continued to increase during the 1960's but then stabilized in the 1970's, when a loss of ten persons occurred according to the U.S. Census figures. During the 1980's, Census figures reveal a loss of exactly 300 persons, or a rate of population change of -6.2 percent. Another loss was experienced in the following decade of 367 persons to give the city a 2000 population of 4,188.

**TABLE 2-2
TOTAL POPULATION, 1930 - 2000
HART COUNTY, HARTWELL and BOWERSVILLE**

YEAR	HART COUNTY	HARTWELL	BOWERSVILLE
1930	15,174	2,048	271
1940	15,512	2,372	284
1950	14,495	2,964	303
1960	15,229	4,599	293
1970	15,814	4,865	301
1980	18,585	4,855	318
1990	19,712	4,555	311
2000	22,997	4,188	334

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census

All Georgia counties surrounding Hart County witnessed population growth during the 1980s and 1990s. The rate of growth, however, varied significantly depending on location. Madison County, part of the Athens MSA, had a growth rate consistent with the State of Georgia. Madison County's growth between 1980 and 1990 was also quite comparable to the Athens MSA growth, by which it is heavily influenced. Franklin County's population growth rate between 1990 and 2000 was 21.8 percent, due in large measure to access to Interstate 85 and significant residential development along Lake Hartwell. Hart County's 1990-2000 growth rate was less than Franklin County (16.7%), perhaps because it witnessed residential growth around Lake Hartwell but is not quite as accessible via Interstate 85. Elbert County, without Interstate access but with substantial lake shoreline on Lake Russell, had only a more modest growth rate in the 1990s (8.2 percent). Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center planners indicate Lake Russell has severe development limitations imposed on its shoreline by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This point may further account for differences in population growth rates between Hart and Elbert Counties.

TABLE 2-3
POPULATION TRENDS, 1980 - 2000
SELECTED AREAS

AREA	1980	1990	1980 - 1990 % CHANGE	2000	1990 - 2000 % CHANGE
Bowersville	318	311	-2.2	334	7.4
Canon	704	737	4.7	755	2.4
Elberton	4,686	5,682	-0.1	4,743	-16.5
Elbert County	18,758	18,949	1.0	20,511	8.2
Franklin County	15,185	16,650	9.6	20,285	21.8
Hart County	18,585	19,712	6.1	22,997	16.7
Hartwell	4,855	4,555	-6.2	4,188	-8.1
Madison County	17,747	21,050	18.6	25,730	22.2
Georgia	5,463,000	6,478,000	18.6	8,186,453	26.4
Royston	2,404	2,758	12.8	2,493	-9.6
South Carolina	3,122,000	3,487,000	11.7	4,012,012	15.1

NOTES: The City of Canon is located in Hart and Franklin Counties. The City of Royston is located in Hart, Franklin and Madison Counties.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census.

2.3. Assessment of Growth Trends Surrounding Hartwell.

Based on the past analysis of population trends, some generalizations can be made. Population change in Hartwell and Hart County does not appear to have been influenced significantly by population growth in surrounding regions. The location of the county is too distant at the present time to receive exurban growth from the Athens MSA, even though Hart County borders on its boundary. Hartwell is actually within commuting distance to Athens, however, and near the end of the planning horizon (the year 2025), it is not inconceivable that the city and county population trends could be influenced by metropolitan Athens growth, especially as it extends into neighboring Madison County.

Hart County and Hartwell are much more likely to be influenced by population growth in Anderson County, South Carolina. The fact that Anderson is in another state, and that you must cross Lake Hartwell to reach Anderson, are potential psychological barriers to the growth of this MSA influencing Hartwell and Hart County. However, if Hart County and Hartwell are to be influenced at all by any regional population patterns, it is likely to be by Anderson, South Carolina and the MSA growth influences in Greenville-Spartanburg.

A positive growth influence is Interstate 85, as evidenced by population increases in counties where it is located, while Elbert County (without interstate access) has not witnessed significant population growth. Interstate 85 has some marginal growth influence on Hart County, and to a lesser extent, Hartwell. However, due to I-85's location in the extreme northern portion of Hart County, it has not provided the accessibility (and subsequent growth influence) that it has in counties bisected by the highway (Banks, Franklin and Jackson Counties, for instance).

Another positive growth influence is the amenity of having miles of Lake Hartwell shoreline in Hart County. The lake has influenced population growth in adjacent Franklin County, and to a lesser extent Hart County, due to its desirable location for permanent residential and second home developments. Although Hartwell does not have property directly fronting on the lake, it could result in some positive growth influence, particularly if the city annexed to its shoreline.

2.4. Analysis of Components and Factors of Population Change.

There are essentially two major components of population change: natural increase (the number of births

minus the number of deaths), and net in-migration (the number of persons migrating into the area minus the number of persons moving out of the community). Municipalities have a third possible component of population change - the annexation of additional property and population into the city.

Table 2-4 provides vital statistics for recent years for the Hart County. For the years 1990 through 2000, the county population has greatly through migration. More than ninety percent of the growth seen in the county over the past decade has come through people moving into the county. It logically follows, then, that natural decrease and net out-migration for Hartwell in the 1990s resulted in a loss of 367 persons.

**TABLE 2-4
VITAL STATISTICS, 1990 - 2000
HART COUNTY**

1990	2000	NATURAL INCREASE	NET MIGRATION	PERCENT NET MIGRATION
19,712	22,297	254	3,031	92.3

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census.

Prior to presenting the population projections, it is necessary to analyze the age and racial characteristics of Hartwell's population.

2.5. Age Distribution of the Population.

Table 2-5 provides the distribution of Hartwell's population by age from 1970 to 2000. This table reveals the natural and migration decrease for Hartwell's total population. All eight age groups under the age of forty saw a decrease over the past decade, some more significantly than others. The majority this decrease is due to younger families and individuals leaving the city and moving into the county into housing or out of the county for employment. In addition to the younger age groups, the three age groups between age 60 and 74 decreased. This is where some natural decrease has occurred in the city population. The only age group that increased significantly from 1990 to 2000 was the 75+ age group from 541 to 613 persons.

**TABLE 2-5
POPULATION BY AGE CATEGORY
1970 - 2000
CITY OF HARTWELL**

AGE CATEGORY	1970	1980	1990	2000
0 - 4	434	307	277	273
5 - 9	463	389	312	244
10 - 14	490	413	293	242
15 - 19	414	398	325	240
20 - 24	349	326	263	233
25 - 29	285	293	307	266
30 - 34	267	310	300	228
35 - 39	289	246	262	241
40 - 44	262	202	257	273
45 - 49	307	232	237	234
50 - 54	271	272	202	236
55 - 59	282	288	221	232
60 - 64	206	281	238	217
65 - 69	184	282	284	215
70 - 74	149	201	236	201
75+	213	415	541	613
TOTAL	4,865	4,855	4,555	4,188

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce.

At least three findings regarding the age of Hartwell's population are worthy of note here. First, it appears that the number of very young persons, teenagers, and young working age persons has consistently declined from 1970 to 2000. This has important implications in that the younger labor force segment of the population in the city is declining, and insofar as public service demand for the younger population from the city may be in decline (day care centers, schools, youth recreation programs, and so forth).

Second, the middle age segments (30-49) have decreased as well, with the exception being the 40-44 age group. Third, there has been a substantial decrease in the number of retirement-age persons (60-74) in Hartwell from 1990 to 2000. Only the age 75+ category increased over the past decade. Although this is consistent with the general trend toward an increasing elderly population nationwide, some of this marked increase is due to the location of nursing homes within Hartwell. An increasing elderly population has broad and important implications, as the passage below indicates:

Changes in the age structure have far-reaching social and economic effects, because older people frequently are no longer active in the labor force and generally have different needs than the rest of the population...The need for additional senior citizen services, such as home health care, recreational centers, specialized housing (such as opportunities for independent living), and transportation will have to be met...Business patterns will also change because of an increase in the older population. As the population matures, businesses traditionally catering to young consumers (such as the fast food industry) will have to change their strategies and marketing to meet the demands of older consumers. New opportunities will arise for those catering to the needs and tastes of an older population because of the different spending habits and buying power of the elderly...In addition, older voters are more likely to be concerned with economic or "pocket book" issues since they are usually living on fixed incomes and may vote accordingly. (Hortense Bates, Allen Moore and Douglas Bachtel. 1986. "Georgia's Changing Age Structure." In *Issues Facing Georgia*, Volume 2, Number 5, January 1986. University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service).

2.6. Racial Composition of the Population.

Table 2-16 provides racial statistics for the population of Hartwell for 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000. The White population has gradually decreased, while the Black population has increased over the two decades. The Black population comprised about one-quarter (25.7%) of the total population in 1970 and increased to more than one-third (34.9%) of the 2000 city population, even though it actually decreased over the last decade. Increases in the number of persons of other race, including asian, and of hispanic origin, have increased from 1990 to 2000. Persons of hispanic origin increased nearly threefold. Hartwell is like many communities in Northeast Georgia which are seeing a significantly rapid increase in the Latino population, many of which are unaccounted for in official population figures. The uncounted is population is reported to be five to ten times the reported data. Continued decreases in White persons coupled with continued increases in the Asian and Latino population could result in a more racially equal city population in the next two decades. There are reasons to indicate this general trend will continue in the future.

Persons of Hispanic origin are one of the fastest growing population segments in the United States, and it is likely that this population segment (hispanic origin can be of any race) could rise sharply during the planning horizon. If the number of spanish-speaking persons should rise dramatically, the impact on city service provision could be marked, such as the need for spanish-speaking police officers and city administrative personnel.

TABLE 2-6
POPULATION BY RACE
1970 - 2000
CITY OF HARTWELL

YEAR	WHITE	%	BLACK	%	OTHER	%	HISPANIC ORIGIN
1970	3,611	74.2	1,252	25.7	3	0.1	N/A
1980	3,507	72.3	1,331	27.4	13	0.3	53
1990	2,985	65.5	1,552	34.1	18	0.4	15
2000	2,656	63.4	1,460	34.9	72	1.7	42

NOTE:Hispanic origin can be of any race.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

2.7. Population Projections.

The data in Table 2-7 include scenarios of population projection that could take place in Hartwell over the next twenty years.

Scenario "A" indicates Hartwell's population trends will mirror trends in the 1980's and 1990s. This linear extrapolation of 1990s trends is considered unlikely to reflect the future.

Scenario "B", the "constant share" method, indicates how Hartwell's population would increase if it maintained a constant share of Hart County's projected population (18.2% of the total county population). On its face, scenario "B" appears unlikely given the current trends of new residential areas being located in unincorporated Hart County adjacent to Lake Hartwell.

Scenario "C" includes population projection numbers that Georgia Mountain RDC provides to Georgia EPD as population forecast for water withdrawal and waste water discharge purposes. This includes an annual growth rate of one percent which eventually decreases to about one-half of one percent towards the end of the projected period.

Scenario "D" incorporates the projected population from Scenario C, but also includes a an estimated Latino population that is not officially counted in most population estimates.

**TABLE 2-7
FUTURE POPULATION SCENARIOS
2005-2025
CITY OF HARTWELL**

		TOTAL POPULATION				
SCENARIO	DESCRIPTION	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
A	Population will follow trends in the 1980s (a 6.2% decrease over the decade between 1980 and 1990) ("linear extrapolation")	4,021	3,860	3,706	3,558	3,414
B	Hartwell will maintain its existing percentage share of Hart County's total population (18.2%) ("constant share")	4,460	4,752	5,091	5,458	5,855
C	Georgia Mountains RDC projections as provided for water withdrawal and wastewater discharge purposes. One percent annual growth rate decreasing to about one-half a percent annual growth over the planning horizon.	4,401	4,626	4,742	4,886	5,061
D	Scenario C as well as incorporating the total Latino population (reported and unaccounted).	4,611	4,973	5,146	5,473	5,730

Source: GMRDC, 2005.

Finally, annexation could increase the city's total population in future years. It is difficult to forecast population based on this type of action. However, if the city aggressively expands its services based on annexation, then population numbers for the city could drastically change.

It is impossible to predict which scenario or combination of scenarios will actually occur. Such events as improve housing conditions, expanded nursing home facilities, increase in the Latino population and implementation of city policies relative to annexation, Hartwell's population is likely to increase steadily over the planning horizon.

**TABLE 2-8
TOTAL POPULATION AND PROJECTIONS
HART COUNTY, HARTWELL AND BOWERSVILLE
1990- 2025**

YEAR	HART COUNTY	HARTWELL	BOWERSVILLE
1990	19,712	4,555	311
2000	22,997	4,188	334
2001	20,339	4,229	338
2002	20,458	4,272	342
2003	20,645	4,314	346
2004	20,825	4,358	349
2005	24,504	4,401	353
2006	24,810	4,445	357
2007	25,131	4,490	361
2007	25,447	4,534	365
2009	25,768	4,580	369
2010	26,112	4,626	372
2015	27,978	4,742	394
2020	29,991	4,886	418
2025	32,175	5,061	445

SOURCE: Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center, 2005.

2.8. Alternatives For Increasing Hartwell's Population.

If city officials are concerned about population decline and want to take action to prevent continued losses, there are essentially two general options: increase the population within the existing city limits, by encouraging new residential growth; and increase the population by annexing residential areas currently outside the city limits, through an aggressive annexation policy which identifies positive benefits for residents becoming citizens of Hartwell.

Both of these alternatives for reversing population loss are feasible, but there are no guarantees they will result in the goal of population increase. The city can encourage annexation, and even initiate an annexation of "urban areas, but property owners and residents ultimately make the decision. An aggressive annexation policy could therefore conceivably fail, if large-scale reluctance to annex occurs. In a similar manner, Hartwell could encourage new residential development through pro-development policies, relaxation of development codes, provision of zoning and "infrastructure" supportive of higher density residential development, the development and promotion of housing programs and so forth, but one cannot ensure development and residential occupancy will occur if such measures are taken.

2.9. Statement of Overall Growth Policies for Hartwell.

Based on review of the population trends, evaluation of alternatives, and discussion by the Growth Strategy Advisory Committee, and Mayor and Council, the following growth policy and supporting objectives are adopted:

The population loss within the City of Hartwell between 1980 and 2000 is undesirable, and continued population loss would also be undesirable. In spite of all the annexation that took place in Hartwell over the past decade, the U.S. Census data may be questionable. However, the City of Hartwell seeks to reverse population decline and to achieve managed population growth of between 5% and 10% per decade, or at least a proportionate share of Hart County's growth.

A policy strongly related to the overall growth policy is the coordination of the service delivery areas within Hart County around the City of Hartwell.

2.10. Households.

Table 2-9 provides figures regarding the characteristics of households from 1970 to 2000. The total household population decreased by approximately 300 persons from 1980 to 1990 and by almost 400 persons from 1990 to 2000. However, the number of households remained about the same over this period of time. The number of households can stay steady or increase even though total household population decreases.

This steady number in households, despite a decrease in household population, is due to the creation of smaller households. Divorces and young adults moving away from home are two reasons for increases in households. In short, households are generally getting smaller nationwide, and the number of persons per household has decreased in Hartwell consistent with this trend. Hartwell has also witnessed an increase in its group quarters population, or persons residing in correctional institutions, dormitories, nursing and personal care homes, and so forth. The group quarters population comprised 6.8% of the total population in Hartwell in 2000 in increase of 1.5% over the past decade. Most of these persons resided in nursing homes.

**TABLE 2-9
HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS
1970 - 2000
CITY OF HARTWELL**

CHARACTERISTIC	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Household Pop.	4,852	4,645	4,307	3,904
In Group Quarters	13	210	248	284
Total Households	1,607	1,704	1,767	1,760
Persons per Household	3.02	2.73	2.44	2.22

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

Table 2-10 provides additional insight to the decreasing size of households in Hartwell over time. The number of one-person households increased by almost 100 in Hartwell from 1990 to 2000. Single-person households made up more than one-third of Hartwell's households in 2000. Two-persons households, composing nearly of another one-third of all Hartwell households in 2000, decreased slightly. Larger households in Hartwell (three or more persons) have declined both in actual number and expressed as a percentage of total households.

TABLE 2-15
HOUSEHOLDS BY NUMBER OF
PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD
1980 - 2000
CITY OF HARTWELL

HOUSEHOLD	1980	%	1990	%	2000	%
1 Person	452	26.5	552	31.2	646	36.7
2 Persons	510	29.9	568	32.1	556	31.6
3 Persons	276	16.2	267	15.1	259	14.7
4 Persons	243	14.3	208	11.8	191	10.9
5 Persons	116	6.8	94	5.3	63	3.5
6 or More Persons	107	6.3	78	4.5	45	2.5
"Family" Households	1,246	73.1	1,187	67.2	1,073	61.0
"Non-Family" Households	458	26.9	580	32.8	687	39.0
TOTAL	1,704	100	1,767	100	1,760	100

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census. Census of Population and Housing, 1980 and 1990.

The significant increase in the number of non-family (unrelated) households from 1990 to 2000 also indicates the substantial changes in the composition of households in Hartwell. Non-family households increased from 32.8% of total households in 1990 to 39.0% in 2000. These trends will probably continue throughout the planning horizon.

There are some important implications to these figures regarding the declining size of households, especially relative to future housing demand. The additional households being created are mostly one and two person households, which translates into a housing demand for smaller units and probably a larger demand for rental units or smaller, higher density and affordable owner occupied housing. This implication is discussed further in Chapter Three.

Projections of the number of households are provided in Table 2-11.

**TABLE 2-11
HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS
2005 - 2025
CITY OF HARTWELL**

PROJECTION	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Total Household Pop.	4,087	4,266	4,334	4,437	4,576
In Group Quarters	314	360	408	449	485
Persons per Household	2.20	2.16	2.12	2.10	2.08
Total Households	1,858	1,975	2,044	2,113	2,200

SOURCE: Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center. 2005.

These figures are based on the population projections in Table 2-8, and are based further on an anticipated decrease in average household size. These household projections are intentionally high so that Hartwell can plan for significant increases in housing demand.

2.11. Educational Attainment of the Population.

Minimum planning standards require a comparison of educational attainment of the community's residents with those of surrounding counties and the State of Georgia. Table 2-12 provides 1990 educational attainment figures for Georgia, Hart County and surrounding counties. Comparable figures for Hartwell and other municipalities wholly or partly located in Hart County are provided in Table 2-13. In general, Georgia's residents as a whole are better educated than those of Hartwell, Hart County, and counties surrounding Hart County. Some of this is due to the rural characteristics of the region, the lack of higher educational facilities within Hart County, and the large numbers of metropolitan persons skewing this statewide statistic. Tables 2-14 and 2-15 provides updated educational attainment data for the year 2000 for the county and for Hartwell.

**TABLE 2-12
1990 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER
GEORGIA, HART COUNTY AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES
(Numbers in Percentages)**

YEARS COMPLETED	GEORGIA	FRANKLIN COUNTY	HART COUNTY	MADISON COUNTY	ELBERT COUNTY
Elementary School (0-8)	12	20	17	18	18
High School (9-12)	17	26	27	22	28
High School Graduate	30	29	33	37	34
College (1-3)	22	16	15	13	12
College (4+)	19	9	9	10	8
Percent High School Graduate or Higher	71	54	57	60	54

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census. 1990 Census of Population and Housing. Summary Tape File 3A.

**TABLE 2-13
1990 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER
GEORGIA AND MUNICIPALITIES IN HART COUNTY
(Numbers are Percentages)**

YEARS COMPLETED	GEORGIA	BOWERSVILLE	CANON	HARTWELL	ROYSTON
Elementary School (0-8)	12	19	33	23	30
High School (9-12)	17	19	25	24	26
High School Graduate	30	37	25	26	21
College (1-3)	22	17	12	16	14
College (4+)	19	8	5	11	9
Percent High School Graduate or Higher	71	62	42	53	44

NOTE: Canon is partially located in Franklin County. Royston is partially located in Franklin and Madison Counties.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census. 1990 Census of Population and Housing. Summary Tape File 3A.

**TABLE 2-14
2000 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER
GEORGIA, HART COUNTY AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES
(Numbers in Percentages)**

YEARS COMPLETED	GEORGIA	FRANKLIN COUNTY	HART COUNTY	MADISON COUNTY	ELBERT COUNTY
Elementary School (0-8)	7.6	11.1	9.5	8.5	11.0
High School (9-12)	13.8	21.9	19.5	20.7	21.7
High School Graduate	28.7	37.5	36.9	40.8	39.2
College (1-3)	25.6	19.2	20.7	19.0	18.2
College (4+)	24.3	10.3	13.5	10.9	9.8
Percent High School Graduate or Higher	78.6	67.0	71.1	70.7	67.2

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 2000.

**TABLE 2-15
2000 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER
GEORGIA AND MUNICIPALITIES IN HART COUNTY
(Numbers are Percentages)**

YEARS COMPLETED	GEORGIA	BOWERSVILLE	CANON	HARTWELL	ROYSTON
Elementary School (0-8)	7.6	7.9	20.7	14.5	19.1
High School (9-12)	13.8	18.9	28.5	24.9	26.6
High School Graduate	28.7	45.8	31.9	27.9	28.6
College (1-3)	25.6	20.3	12.3	19.6	15.5
College (4+)	24.3	7.0	6.7	13.1	10.2
Percent High School Graduate or Higher	78.6	73.1	50.9	60.6	54.3

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 2000.

Somewhat surprisingly, Hartwell's population in 2000 had a lower percentage of persons with a high school education or higher (61%) than did Hart County (71%). Municipal populations are usually better educated than the outlying rural populations, at least for most counties in the Georgia Mountains Region. However, as the retirement population has located to Hart County over the past ten years, they are persons with higher levels of education. Adjacent county and city populations have percentages completing high school which are both lower and higher than the population of Hartwell in 2000. However, Hartwell's percentages compare favorably with the Cities of Canon and Royston, both of which are located predominantly within Franklin County, but is lower than the level found in Bowersville.

State standards also require an inventory and assessment of dropout rates, standardized achievement test scores, and high school graduates attending post-secondary education facilities. Since Hartwell does not operate a city school system, the applicable data for Hart County students are provided in Tables 2-16 and 2-17.

As indicated in Table 2-16, enrollment in recent years in Hart County's public schools has been slowly increasing, is inconsistent with earlier findings that the younger age population in Hartwell is decreasing. This tells us that student growth is occurring in the county. The high school dropout rate also decreased significantly from 1999 to 2003, from a 9.3% high to a 5.4% low. The average dropout rate for the State of Georgia in 2002-03 was 5.5%.

**TABLE 2-19
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT AND DROPOUTS
1998 - 2003
HART COUNTY**

SCHOOL YEAR	PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	PRIVATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS (Previous Yr.)	DROPOUT RATE
1998 - 1999	3,432	0	79	7.8
1999 - 2000	3,431	0	94	9.3
2000 - 2001	3,422	0	N/A	N/A
2001 - 2002	3,474	0	56	5.4
2002 - 2003	3,564	17	67	6.3

SOURCE: State of Georgia Department of Education.

**TABLE 2-17
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TEST
PERCENT 11TH GRADE PASSING ON FIRST ATTEMPT
HART COUNTY**

YEAR	LANGUAGE ARTS	MATH	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	WRITING	ALL SCORES
1999-2000	96	93	72	84	90	68
2000-2001	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001-2002	98	92	62	77	82	60
2002-2003	97	92	61	76	88	70

SOURCE: State of Georgia Department of Education. *The Georgia County Guide*.

**TABLE 2-18
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TEST
PERCENT 11TH GRADE PASSING ON FIRST ATTEMPT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

YEAR	LANGUAGE ARTS	MATH	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	WRITING	ALL SCORES
1999-2000	95	92	73	85	91	71
2000-2001	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001-2002	95	91	72	82	87	69
2002-2003	95	92	69	81	88	70

SOURCE: State of Georgia Department of Education. *The Georgia County Guide*.

Another measure of educational accomplishments are test scores for student in school. Tables 2-17 and 2-18 compare Hart County 11th graders scores on the High School graduation Test required in the State of Georgia. Hart County's students fared competitively with the State on all components of the test. Students in the local school consistently scored higher in language arts and math than the rest of the state. However, the only subjects that students were consistently lower than the state was science and social studies.

The number of high school graduates in Hart County, during the three years for which data were available, remained steady, as indicated in Table 2-19. The number of graduates continuing on to college ranged in percentages from 20 percent to 24 percent of all graduates. A small percentage of graduates do continue on to vocational school. The majority of students, however, appear to prefer full-time employment, or at least they did so in the 1999 to 2003 school years.

**TABLE 2-19
FOLLOW-UP OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
ENTERING POST SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HART COUNTY**

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Number of Students	33	N/A	35	51
% of Graduating Class	21.2	N/A	20.6	23.5
Number Entering Tech. Adult Education	38	NA/	39	45

SOURCE: State of Georgia Department of Education. *The Georgia County Guide*.

In summary, the data reveal Hart County's educational attainment is comparable with surrounding counties but slightly lower than the state average. Hartwell's educational attainment in 2000 was slightly lower than Hart County's. Educational services and the need for education for employment opportunities is addressed in subsequent chapters of the plan.

2.12. Income of the Population.

With the exception of the decennial census, most sources of income data only report for counties. Table 2-20 provides yearly per capita income figures for Hart County in comparison with the State of Georgia. Hart County's per capita income in 1980 was only 80.5% of the State's per capita income. Over the years, though local income per capita has increased, Hart County has consistently seen a decrease in its income in relation to Georgia. By the year 2003 the local income was only 74.7% of the State's per capita income. This is a sign in that Hart County residents are slowly seeing an income differential that has placed them in more difficult economic conditions than the rest of the State.

**TABLE 2-20
PER CAPITA INCOME
1980 - 2003
HART COUNTY AND GEORGIA
(All Figures in Dollars)**

YEAR	HART COUNTY	GEORGIA	HART CO. % OF GEORGIA TOTAL
1980	6,473	8,041	80.5
1990	14,310	17,722	80.7
1991	14,662	18,201	80.6
1992	15,093	19,170	78.7
1993	15,330	19,886	77.1
1994	15,977	20,841	76.6
1995	16,467	21,806	75.5
1996	17,078	23,055	74.1
1997	18,038	23,911	75.4
1998	19,151	25,447	75.3
1999	20,069	26,499	75.7
2000	21,115	27,794	76.0
2003	21,663	29,000	74.7

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Some of this decrease is due to the aging population of county from retirees moving in and having limited incomes.

According to Census data, Hartwell's per capita income was higher than Hart County's in 1980, but then dropped significantly below Hart County's in 1990, and continued to fall behind in 2000, as indicated in Table 2-21. Hartwell's 1990 per capita income was only 69.5% of Georgia's 1990 per capita income and the city's 2000 income figure was only 69.7% of the state level. It thus appears that, while the Hart County income differential is widening, the gap between Hartwell residents and those of Georgia as a whole have remained about the same.

**TABLE 2-21
COMPARISON OF PER CAPITA INCOME
1980 - 2000
(All Figures in Dollars)**

AREA	1980	1990	2000
Bowersville	4,371*	10,000**	13,645
Hartwell	5,701	9,475	14,745
Hart County	5,661	11,187	16,714
Georgia	6,402	13,631	21,154

** Estimated

SOURCE: U.S. Census of Population and Housing. 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Tables 2-22 and 2-23 indicates the income of Hartwell's households by income group classifications, as well as median income figures. This data reveals that incomes have changed very little in Hartwell over the past ten years. They have risen only very slightly from 1990 to 2000. The percentage of households in 1990 that had an income of less than \$10,000 was 31%. The percentage for the same income in the year 2000 was 21.8%. The percentage of households that had an income of \$10,000 to 24,999 decreased from 31.1% in 1990 to only 25.9% in 2000. Households that had an income of \$25,000 to \$49,999 increase from 29.2% to only 32.8%. The only significant change in income classification was in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 income range which increase significantly in number and percentage from 98 (5.5%) in 1990 to 215 (12.3%) in 2000. The overall median household income in Hartwell increased by 49.7% from \$17,643 in 1990 to \$26,411 in 2000.

**TABLE 2-22
1990 HOUSEHOLD INCOME
CITY OF HARTWELL**

INCOME CLASSIFICATION	HOUSEHOLDS	%
Less than \$5,000	238	13.4
\$ 5,000 - 9,999	312	17.6
\$ 10,000 - 14,999	205	11.6
\$ 15,000 - 24,999	346	19.5
\$ 25,000 - 34,999	322	18.2
\$ 35,000 - 49,999	195	11.0
\$ 50,000 - 74,999	98	5.5
\$ 75,000 - 99,999	42	2.4
\$100,000 - 149,999	8	0.5
\$150,000 or more	6	0.3
TOTAL NUMBER	1,772	100
MEDIAN (\$)	\$17,643	---

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1990.

**TABLE 2-23
2000 HOUSEHOLD INCOME
CITY OF HARTWELL**

INCOME CLASSIFICATION (\$)	HOUSEHOLDS	%
Less than 10,000	380	21.8
10,000-24,999	452	25.9
25,000-49,999	571	32.8
50,000-74,999	215	12.3
75,000-99,999	78	4.5
100,000-149,999	40	2.3
150,000-199,999	---	---
200,000 or more	7	0.4
Median (\$)	26,411	- -
Total	1,743	100

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000.

The median family income in Hartwell, as presented in Tables 2-24 through 2-26, is significantly higher than the median household income. This figure is attributed to two factors. The first is that the average size of families is higher than the average size of households and secondly, is that families tend to have higher levels of education that translates into higher incomes.

In 2000, both Hartwell's median household and median family income were lower than income levels found in Bowersville, Hart County and the State of Georgia.

**TABLE 2-24
2000 FAMILY INCOME
CITY OF HARTWELL**

INCOME CLASSIFICATION (\$)	FAMILIES	%
Less than 10,000	105	10.8
10,000-24,999	239	24.5
25,000-49,999	363	37.2
50,000-74,999	188	19.3
75,000-99,999	33	3.4
100,000-149,999	40	4.1
150,000-199,999	---	---
200,000 or more	7	0.7
Median (\$)	34,560	---
Total families	975	100

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census.

**TABLE 2-25
1990 INCOME CHARACTERISTICS
HART COUNTY, HARTWELL, BOWERSVILLE, AND GEORGIA**

CHARACTERISTIC	HART CO	HARTWELL	BOWERSVILLE	GEORGIA
Median Household	24,333	27,561	21,667	29,021
Median Family	27,768	23,906	29,250	33,529

Source: The U.S. Bureau of Census.

**TABLE 2-26
2000 INCOME CHARACTERISTICS
HART COUNTY, HARTWELL, BOWERSVILLE, AND GEORGIA**

CHARACTERISTIC	HART CO	HARTWELL	BOWERSVILLE	GEORGIA
Median Household	32,833	26,411	30,625	42,433
Median Family	39,600	34,560	36,440	49,280

Source: The U.S. Bureau of Census.

TABLE 2-27
2000 POVERTY CHARACTERISTICS
HART COUNTY, HARTWELL AND BOWERSVILLE

POVERTY CHARACTERISTIC	HART CO	HARTWELL	BOWERSVILLE
Total Persons Below Poverty Level	3,329	892	56
% Total Persons Below Poverty Level	14.8	23.7	17.6
Total Persons 65 Years and Over Below Poverty Level	603	245	12
Related Children Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level	1,017	215	11
% Related Children Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level	19.1	24.1	14.7
Total Families Below Poverty Level	809	157	16
Families Below Poverty Level with Female Householder (No Husband Present)	363	107	9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census.

At the 2000 Census, nearly 24% of the city's population lived below the poverty level. This fact, as presented in Table 2-27, supports the data found in previous tables showing the low per capita and median household incomes found in Hartwell. Of the persons living below the poverty level, 245 or 27.5% of them are person who are age 65 or older. On the other side, 215 or 24.1% of those living under the poverty line are children under the age of 18.

Some of this can be attributed to the lower levels of education attained by persons in Hartwell as well as the aging population and smaller size households.

**TABLE 2-28
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE OF INCOME, 2000
CITY OF HARTWELL**

INCOME TYPE	# OF HOUSEHOLDS	% OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	MEAN INCOME (\$)
Wage and Salary Earnings	1,094	79.7	33,119
Self-Employment	116	8.5	N/A
Social Security	687	39.4	9,512
Public Assistance	89	5.1	3,529
Retirement	338	19.4	21,009

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census.

An analysis of household income by type in Hartwell reveals that 79.7% of the households derive their income from wage and salary earnings. This groups has a mean income of \$33,119. Also of significance is that there are 687 households (39.4%) receive social security income and that almost 20% of households have retirement income. It is important to note that almost 45% of the households in Hartwell receive some type of transfer payment.